

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 13, 15, 17, and 20 have been amended. Claim 19 has been canceled. Claims 1-18 and 20-21 are currently pending.


Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,400,374 to Lanier ("Lanier"). Claims 1-16 stand allowed in the Office Action. Claims 18-21 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-16 and the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 18-21.

Applicant has amended independent claim 17 to include the features of dependent claim 19. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 17 as amended distinguishes over Lanier and requests that the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of independent claim 17 be withdrawn. Claims 18 and 20-21 are dependent upon and include the features of independent claim 17. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18 and 20-21 also distinguish over Lanier. Claims 1, 13, and 15 have been amended to correct informalities.

In view of the above, each of the presently-pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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